

KEEC Fall Board Meeting

October 28, 2009

The meeting took place at Berry Hill Mansion in Frankfort, Kentucky. Members present were Jim Funk, Robert Roquemoire, Allan Branscum, Greg Higdon, Marcus, Norton, and Evelyn Morgan. Staff present were Jane Eller, Michelle Nevels, and Merin Roseman.

Evelyn Morgan, vice-chair person, for KEEC opened the meeting. After the board members reviewed July's board meeting minutes, Alan Branscum motioned to approve the minutes and Greg Higdon seconded the motion to approve.

Budget Review

Michelle Nevels discussed the budget submitted for the biennial fiscal year planning. The current balances for the budget for year to date revenues and expenditures, and the ARRA budget. KEEC has received \$150,000.00 for Environmental Civil Penalties (KRS 224.10-250) and \$118,489.00 for KY Pride Fund Interest (KRS 224.43-505 (2)(b)). Along with the aforementioned revenues, KEEC received a prior year refund for KUPPEE grants to NKU and MSU for the amounts of \$9,168.00 and \$5,371.00, respectively. KEEC has a carry forward balance of \$357,600.00 and estimated receipts for EE Certification, books, etc, in the amount of \$5,000.00. The total revenue, including the carry forward balance, for fiscal year 2010 is \$645,628.00. The estimated total expenditures for FY 2010 amounts to \$ 125,260.00.

KEEC was fortunate to receive funds for American Recovery Reinvestment Act (ARRA) in the amount of \$214,000.00 to be distributed via the Department of Energy over the next 2.5 years. Budget planning for ARRA funds distribution amounts to a total of \$26,600.00 for salary, FICA, and benefits for the Green & Healthy Schools Coordinator, Merin Roseman, for the FY 2010. For FY 2011, the Green & Healthy Schools Coordinator will receive \$40,500.00 for salary, FICA, and benefits. For 2012, the Green & Healthy Schools Coordinator will receive \$33,900.00 for her salary package. Grants to schools for Green & Healthy School will total \$60,000.00 for the length of the ARRA fund distribution. KEEC will also use \$53,000.00 of these funds over the next 2.5 years to purchase professional services. (For a complete breakdown of the ARRA fund budget, please see handout in the budget manual for October's Board Meeting.)

The current agency budget, balance sheet breakdown shown in October 2009's board meeting handouts, is through October 27, 2009. KEEC received \$626,089.00 in revenues and has expended \$125,260.00 of those resources through October 27, 2009. This leaves a remaining balance of \$500,829.00

Review of Master Plan and Environmental Literacy Survey

Jane Eller proceeded to discuss the Environmental Literacy Survey just recently published. The results of the survey indicate that people are better educated regarding water pollution and air pollution with reference to results from the old survey. Jane Eller also explained that QWEP and general storm water education answers indicate that the population's understanding generally has improved. The survey also shows that the population is aware that coal also is a pollutant. Thirty percent of those surveyed indicate that coal and oil are renewable resources. Fifty-nine percent of those surveyed identified solar and wind as renewable resources. Jane Eller also informed the board the Master Plan is at Creative Services. She also indicated that men generally know more about the environment and women indicate they care about the environment more than men. The survey indicates that water, air quality, and mountaintop removal is thought to be the biggest problem of the environment. The board further discussed the aforementioned indications of the survey; for example, Greg Higdon stated that MTR is a precursor of air pollution and the burning of coal will drive this.

Green & Healthy Schools

Merin Roseman reported that there are more than 23 schools signed up for the Green & Healthy Schools Program during the month of April. She is working on increasing publicity of the program and published articles in education magazines. Also, she designed a new book mark to distribute to interested parties. Merin also indicated she is still working with UK's coordinator and presented at several events in the past quarter (get these from Merin). After looking at the new bookmark, Evelyn suggested that Merin may add a checklist on the back of the bookmark entitled, "Ten Things to Help the Environment".

EE Scrap

The Kentucky Finance Cabinet is beginning recycling efforts of e-scrap in state government. The Kentucky Finance Cabinet is asking the Council to assist by generating a behavior change plan for state employees. Ms. Eller stated that her agency will need an additional staff person with the Finance Cabinet to complete this project. Greg Higdon stated that E-waste legislation has been proposed. Ms. Eller stated that the goal of the project is to educate people how to recycle electronics, which includes information for the "real-cost" to recycle electronics. Also, it was discussed that Kentucky needs an in-state corporation to recycle the products, instead of the current situation which is an out-of-state corporation.

Community Education

Jane Eller initiated the point that KEEC needs to develop a curriculum for adult education. A variety of curricula are available for this use; for example, "How to Green a Home and Make it Healthier". Allan Branscum suggested for the agency to also consider collaborating with extension agents throughout the state since they offer various and several adult education programs pertaining to the environment.

EE Certification

Ms. Eller represented KECC at the Annual Conference for NAAEE in Portland Oregon in 2009. She attended a roundtable discussion regarding EE Certification at the state and national level. The executive director of NAAEE proposed that all EE Certification should be at the national level via an online format. This is a change in policy and will likely be very costly for KEEC, with a possible liability of \$20,000.00 per year to participate in the national certification. Evelyn Morgan stated that Kentucky specifics could be left out of the national certification specifics. She also stated we need to model good EE and it not available by a computer. Ms. Eller further explained that while was attending the round table discussion, she was able to get all current Kentucky Certified EE Educators nationally certified.

There being no additional business to discuss, the meeting was motioned to adjourn by Evelyn Morgan, Vice-Chair Person for KEEC. Allan Branscum Robert Roquemore and 2nd the motion.